



**SUBJECT:- GEOGRAPHY**

**CLASS - 10**

**CHAPTER – RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT**

Kindly read the content given below and view the links shared for better understanding. Attempt the given assignment in Geography notebook. Please mention date, index and topic.

Link for the online textbook (Geography-NCERT)

<http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?jess1=1-7>

Today, we are moving towards the first natural and basic resource for human existence, that is, the **LAND RESOURCE**.

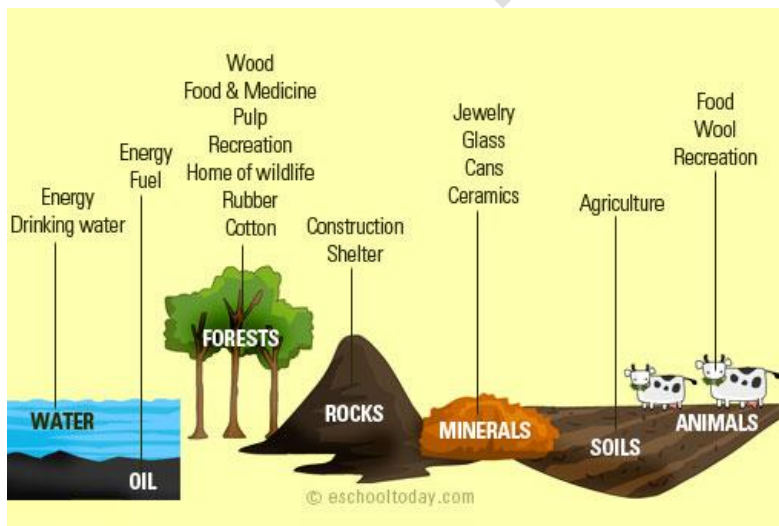
The topic will cover the following:

- Importance
- Division of Land
- Land Utilisation
- Land use Pattern in India

**IMPORTANCE OF LAND RESOURCE**

All the economic and socio-cultural activities of the human beings are done on the land resource. It not only helps the human race but also gives support to the kingdom of plants and animals.

Any human activity that one can think of is being carried out on the land resource- transport, settlement, mining, forestry, cultivation etc.



*Image showing different uses obtained from land resource*

Land is a fixed resource, that is, the availability of this resource will not increase or decrease. About 7 billion people living on earth along with the species of plants and animals are dependent upon the land resource for everything. Therefore, a careful planning is necessary to use the available resource.

## DIVISION OF LAND

Land is divided into a variety of relief features, that is, mountains, plains, plateaus, islands etc. in India.



*Image showing the division of land in India*

According to the division of land, the distribution of population also varies largely in the country. For example, the **Northern Plains**, that constitutes 43% of land area in the country, is the most densely populated as it supports agriculture and industrialization. On the other hand, **mountains** account for 30% of the total surface area. Although mountains are perennial source of rivers and provide facilities for tourism and environment, yet its rugged topography does not support a good settlement of human population. About 27% of the area of the country is the **plateau** region that helps the population to extract the reserves of minerals, fossil fuels and forests.

## LAND UTILIZATION

Land can be used for various purposes. Broadly, the utilization of land done by human beings can be divided into following categories:

1. Forest
2. Land not available for cultivation
  - a. Wasteland and barren land
  - b. Land under non - agricultural use like construction, roads, factories etc.
3. Other uncultivated land (excluding fallow land)
  - a. Permanent pastures and grazing land
  - b. Land under miscellaneous tree crops (not included in net sown area)
  - c. Land left uncultivated for more than 5 agricultural years, known as Cultivable wasteland
4. Fallow land
  - a. Current Fallow Land – land left without cultivation for one or less than one year
  - b. Other than Current Fallow Land – land left uncultivated for the past 1 to 5 years.
5. Net Sown Area – Area sown more than once in an agricultural year plus net sown area is known as Gross Cropped Area.

### **Important words:**

**Fallow Land** – the land that is left uncultivated is called fallow land. The land is otherwise fit for cultivation, but in earlier days this practice was followed by farmers so that the land could regain back the fertility of the soil naturally.

**Net Sown Area** – The total agricultural land available in a year is the Net Sown Area.

**Gross Cropped Area** – The number of times cultivation is done on an agricultural land is called the Gross Cropped Area. For example- in the fertile state of West Bengal, the cultivation of rice can be done thrice in a year. In this case, the net sown area is 1, that is the agricultural land, but the Gross Cropped Area is 3 times, that is the number of times cultivation/harvesting is done.

### **LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA**

The use of land to a large extent is decided by the physical factors such as topography, climate, type of soil as well as human factors, such as population density, technology, culture and traditions.

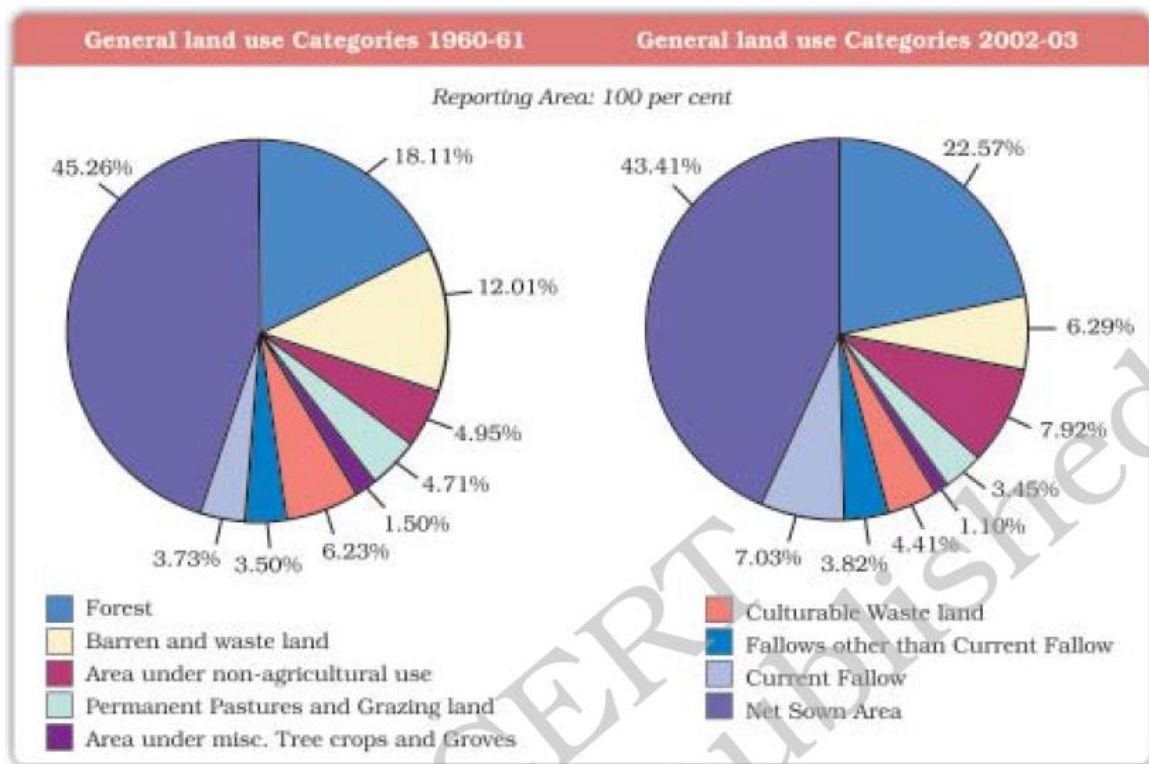
Whether the land is a plain area or mountainous, whether there is fertile alluvial soil or desert soil, high temperature area or moderate temperature area – they all decide the usability of land for various economic activities. Similarly, the level of technology in an area also decides the type of economic activity to be opted by the people over there.

Out of the total geographical area of 3.28 million sq. km., the land data for about 93% of land is available. Some areas of Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India are not covered under the land survey.

Land use pattern is basically the change that we have seen in the use of land over the years. These changes are basically seen over space and time. *Human race is always responsible for bringing the change in land use. It can be dated back to the time when early man converted the forest land into agricultural land and became a settler from a wanderer.*

Construction of metro, metro stations, malls, dams, schools, residential colonies – are all the result of change in land use over the years.

Noida and Gurgaon were agricultural land in the past but in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the land use got changed to residential and commercial land.



The pie diagrams given above explain the changes that have come over in various categories. The summary of the same is given in the table below:

CATEGORY	CHANGE FROM 1960-61 TO 2008-2009	MEANING	REASONS
FOREST	<b>INCREASE</b>	Land area with dense tree cover.	-Increased %, however still under the required level of 33% -Success of Afforestation policies -Growing concern for ecological balance
BARREN AND UNCULTURABLE WASTE	<b>DECREASE</b>	This is the land which was otherwise unfit for cultivation	Decreased %, since it has been brought under use because of scientific and technological advancement
AREA UNDER NON AGRICULTURAL USES	<b>INCREASED</b>	Land used for industries and other infrastructural setup	Growing urbanization is converting agro land mass into commercial land

PERMANENT PASTURE AND GRAZING LAND	<b>DECREASED</b>	Animal grazing land	-Reduction due to conversion of grazing land into agricultural land  -Less area for animal grazing leads to accessing the fertile agricultural fields for the same, causing soil erosion and land degradation
CULTURABLE WASTE LAND	<b>DECREASED</b>	Land which is fit for cultivation but not being used due to difficult or inaccessible terrain dispute	With growing demand for agricultural land, this land is being brought into use
Current Fallow Land	<b>INCREASED</b>	Land left uncultivated for an year to regain its fertility naturally	Excessive cultivation with the use of chemicals and poor agricultural practices has led to increase in its %
FALLOW, OTHER THAN CURRENT FALLOW	<b>DECREASED</b>	Land that has been left uncultivated to regain its fertility- however, even after more than 1 year has not been put to use	Growing demand for land , organic farming and improvement in agricultural sciences has led to its decrease
NET SOWN	<b>INCREASED</b>	Land on which agriculture is practiced	-Inclusion of waste land and grazing land has increased its %  -Still not enough to support demand

Continuous use of land over a long period of time, without taking appropriate measures to conserve and manage it, has resulted in land degradation.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

Q.11. Evaluate the importance of land as a resource.

Q.12. 'Land is a fixed resource, still the gross cropped area increases.' How? Think and write.

Q.13. How does the change in permanent pastures and grazing land affect the people dependent upon it?

Q.14. Study the land use pattern in India from the link provided above (Chapter – Resource and Development – Page no. 6) and analyse the change in the following categories as well as its implications: (positive and negative)

- a. Net Sown Area
- b. Forest
- c. Barren and wasteland
- d. Area under non-agricultural use

Q.15. Find out the reasons for varied proportion of Net Sown Area from Punjab to Arunachal Pradesh. (Three points)

BBPS, PITAMPURA